**USAID - Shelter and Settlements**

Understanding the basics of humanitarian community shelter and settlements activities

**OVERVIEW**

Learn the history and trends related to the sector, best practices in assessments and programming strategy, basic shelter responses, the relationship between shelter and its context (settlements), and how to promote the recovery of affected settlements.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

This learning path is appropriate for all staff supporting the activities centred around shelter and settlements.

**TIME NEEDED**

We recommend 5 hours to complete the program. Each module will take approximately 1 hour.

**GETTING STARTED**

You can register for this program through our online learning system. Once you have registered for the program all courses will appear in your learning list.

**FULL COURSE TITLE:** USAID/OFDA Shelter and Settlements Learning Path

**MODULES**

Settlements

Disaster, Risk Reduction & Reconceiving: The Road to Recovery

Overview and Trends

Issues and Concerns

Shelter

**CONTENT**

**Overview and Trends**

This module discusses both shelter and its setting (settlements) and why shelter should be viewed as more than just four walls and a roof. Understand more about covered living space, international context and rapid urbanization. Learn more about the importance of context in informing S&S activities and the important role of shelter in livelihood generation and the recovery and regeneration of settlements

**Issues and Concerns**

This module emphasizes the need to understand local contexts through careful assessment that includes detailed analysis of damage profiles, settlement characteristics, organizational capacities, markets, and various opportunities for sheltering people. This module also touches on links with related sectors, and the multi-faceted nature of settlements. Some of the key considerations here include markets, regulatory environments, hazards and risks, safety, dignity, protection, and gender.

**Shelter**

This module explores the importance of shelter in meeting the most urgent emergency needs of disaster-affected populations. Starting from the importance of framing in the emergency shelter, the module advocates against the cultural mindset of shelter as four walls and a roof, tents, or even houses. It promotes the concept of shelter and its setting (settlements), and the many functions of shelter, which often include home-based enterprises, factories, barns, warehouses, granaries, etc. This module covers various options to sheltering affected communities and the importance of understanding self-recovery.

**Settlements**

This module recognizes the importance of settlements in the provision of humanitarian assistance. It stresses the importance of switching the unit of analysis from the household to the settlement level to have greater effectiveness in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It argues for a greater understanding of context, disaster impacts, emerging constraints and opportunities, and available resources and capacities. The module also introduces issues affecting the settlements such as various social, economic, political, and environmental challenges.

**Disaster, Risk Reduction & Reconceiving: The Road to Recovery**

The final module focuses on the importance of incorporating DRR into S&S activities, and its importance in saving lives, reducing suffering, and reducing the economic and social impacts of disasters. This module stresses the importance of incorporating DRR into relief projects either as a stand-alone initiative or integrated into S&S programming. Settlements-based interventions that address disaster risks require training and outreach for multiple audiences in order to promote knowledge, advocacy, and policy and program changes.